

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3074

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USEC BRUSSELS 4578

US OECD PARIS 7945

UNCLAS GENEVA 3710

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: OPENING OF 5TH INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT CONFERENCE

1. DESPITE BUOYANT WELCOMING REMARKS BY UNCTAD DIRECTOR COMMODITIES DIVISION CHIDZERO, FIFTH INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT CONFERENCE OPENED IN STRAINED ATMOSPHERE AGAINST BACKDROP OF RECENT SUSPENSION BY ITC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF BUFFER STOCK MANAGER AND HIS DEPUTY. AS RESULT, MUCH WRANGLING DEVELOPED OVER NORMALLY ROUTINE ELECTION OF OFFICERS, WHICH NECESSITATED SEPARATE CONSUMER/PRODUCER CAUCUSES.

2. PRODUCERS OPPOSED ITC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY HW. ALLEN (WHOSE SELECTION PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN AGREED UPON AT ITC APRIL MEETING) ON RATIONALE HIS NEW ACTING BUFFER STOCK MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES IN LONDON MADE IT IMPRACTICABLE HE TAKE ON CONFERENCE CHAIRMANSHIP DUTIES IN GENEVA. MORE DEEP-SEATED REASON LAY IN UNSETTLED NATURE SUSPENSTION CASES, INVOLVING INCIDENTALLY, AN INDONESIAN AND BOLIVIAN NATIONAL. (WE UNDERSTAND INDONESIA LED OPPOSITION TO ALLEN IN PRODUCER CAUCUS.)

3. ON CONSUMER SIDE, WITH USSR INTIALLY AND UNEXPECTEDLY  
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TAKING HARD LINE SUPPORT FOR ALLEN, MOST COUNTRIES FAVORED

AVOIDING PLENARY CONFLICT BY PROPOSING ELECTIN OF FRENCH DELEGATE, PIERRE LEGOUX, WHO WAS UNDERSTOOD TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO PRODUCERS.

4. LEGOUX IS WELL-RESPECTED AND RECOGNIZED DOYEN OF TIN COUNCIL AND WAS EASILY ELECTED AT AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION, THUS PERMITTING CONFERENCE TO OVERCOME MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL HURDLE. WITHOUT FURTHER DEBATE, AND AS EARLIER ANTICIPATED, GENERAL MIRANDA (BOLIVIA) THEN WAS ELECTED FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN, AND KEITH BUCK (CANADA) ASSUMED SECOND VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP.

5. IN ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT, M. LEGOUX EXTOLLED VIRTUES OF TIN AGREEMENT BUT NOTED NECESSITY TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING MECHANISM BY DEALING WITH ISSUES OF ENLARGEING BUFFER STOCK AND PROVIDING ADDITONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

6. THESE AND OTHER SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ISSUES WILL BE CONSIDERED BY AN ESECUTIVE COMMITTEE, IN WHICH ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE MEMBERS AND WHICH WILL MEET IN CLOSED SESSIONS BEGINNING MAY 21. A STEERING COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH PROCEDURAL ISSUES WILL BE SEPARATELY ESTABLISHED BY THE CHAIRMAN AT A LATER DATE. CHAIRMAN LEGOUX ALSO APPOINTED A CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF BOLIVIA, DENMARK, HUNGARY, INDONESIA AND UNITED STATES. (U.S. DEL WAS INFORMALLY APPROACHED EARLIER TO ACCEPT ON GEOGRAPHICAL BASIS AS NORTH AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE).

7. SUBSEQUENT PARA BY PARA NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TEXT DRAFT AGREEMENT WILL BE CONDUCTED BY AN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AND AN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE, BOTH TO INCLUDE ALL DELEGATIONS. FINALLY, A DRAFTING COMMITTEE WILL BE CONSTITUTED TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL OFFICIAL UN LANGUAGES. OFFICERS OF THESE COMMITTEES REMAIN TO BE ELECTED, BUT THESE ARE EXPECTED TO REFLECT BALANCED CONSUMER/PRODUCER COUNTRY REPRESENTATION IN ACCORDANCE PAST TIN CONFERENCE CUSTOM.

8. PEOPLES REPUBLIC CHINA AND BRAZIL, BOTH POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT PRODUCERS, WERE NOT IN ATTENDANCE AT OPENING, THOUGH BRAZILIAN SUBSEQUENT PARTICIPATION WAS ANTICIPATED.

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9. PRIOR TO CONFERENCE OPENING, EC COMMISSION HAD REQUESTED TO BE SEATED AS PARTICIPATING PARTY, RATHER THAN AS OBSERVER, POINTING OUT THAT COMMISSION WAS SIGNATORY TO FOURTH AGREEMENT, HAS SEAT ON ITC AND HAS FULL COMPETENCE ON QUESTIONS OF COMMON COMMERCIAL POLICY. COMMISSION DID NOT, HOWEVER, SEEK RIGHT TO VOTE ON BEHALF OF EC OR MEMBER STATES. REQUEST WAS ENDORSED AT OPENING SESSION BY IRISH DEL AS CURRENT SPOKESMAN FOR EC COUNCIL AND IN ABSENCE OF ANY OBJECTIONS WAS GRANTED BY

CONFERENCE. SOVDEL STATED IT WOULD NOT OBJECT PROVIDED THIS ACTION (IN WORDS OF INTERPRETER) INVOLVED NO OBLIGATIONS FOR USSR TOWARD EC.

10. IN CONVERSATION WITH USDEL, IRISH REPRESENTATIVE EXPLAINED THAT QUESTION OF EXTENT OF EC COMMISSION COMPETENCE TO SPEAK FOR MEMBER STATES WILL BE UNDER DISCUSSION IN BRUSSELS, BUT POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING COMMISSION MANDATE PRESENTLY REMOTE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT CONTAINING UK MEMBERSHIP IN EC.

11. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS CHIDZERO MADE POINT OF WELCOMING U.S. PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE AND EXPRESSED HOPE U.S. WOULD BECOME MEMBER OF ITC. DALE

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